

Red Cross Chapter Grows, Anti-Terrorism Class Due



Billie Cathey

Billie Cathey, local director for the American Red Cross, told us last week how her territory has grown to 12 counties, and her chapter will teach other agencies about terrorism preparedness.

Ms. Cathey said the curriculum is still being written for the class, which will be for charitable and church groups and other non-governmental entities. The local Red Cross chapter is one of 12 in the country which have been selected to teach the course. It is to start about April, she said.

“Disaster Action Teams” are to be formed after the training, for dealing with local disasters. “Strike Teams”

are to be formed to cope with tornadoes, hurricanes and flooding. Activities are to be under the Office of Domestic Preparedness. The local classes are initially to deal with “mass feeding.”

The Red Cross chapter also teaches classes in CPR and First Aid, swimming and has worked disasters from the Oklahoma wildfires to the Louisiana and Texas hurricanes.

They helped 4,000 hurricane evacuees, and have helped 27 families involved in recent fires in this area.

Two times they have saved local lives, once with a man in his late 40s who had a stroke. He was not found for three days, and he still is in a nursing home, the Red Cross director said. The other was a case of carbon monoxide, and the person was rescued.

People need to practice what to do in emergencies. See American Red Cross on page 2

Coalition Official Tells Of Online Directory, Drug Court

Tom Beddow, Director of Counseling at the First Baptist Church, told us Jan. 10 about the work of the Local Service Coalition.

The organization is finishing up an online service directory, listing what organizations offer what services to area people who cannot otherwise afford them.

Beddow said that is the purpose of the group, formerly called the Local Service Committee. The coalition started with three or four community groups. It deals with anger management, drug abuse, coping with divorce and “systems of care.”

But most service directories were “continually out of date.” An online service director would be continually updated, he pointed out.

At first, the state worked with them, and the local coalition was one of four top award winners statewide. But the state “let it die on the vine,” he said.

However, the Department of Corrections and other individual state agencies were very helpful, as well as area school systems, Beddow said. DHS, the Education Department, the Choctaws, Oaks, and the Health Department have taken part, and also the “Faith Community.”

The families also have had a voice in what was going on, which helped the coalition stay together.

The coalition has helped families and children in need of mental health care, and helped establish a “Drug Court.” So far, 33 counties are involved, and they have received “some big grant money,” he reported. With the help of law enforcement and communities, the effort could “totally stop underage drinking,” he predicted.

“There is a great movement across this land, to get the Faith Community involved,” he stated

See Drug Court on page 2



Tom Beddow

District 6110 Dates

February 16-23, 2006 . International Assembly, San Diego, California, USA
March 6, 2006RYLA Applications Due
March 17-18, 2006Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (P.E.T.S.), Peabody Hotel, Little Rock, AR
March 30-April 2, 2006 The 16th annual RYLA camp
June 11-14, 2006International Convention, Malmö, Sweden/Copenhagen, Denmark

High School Teacher, Coach, Talks To Club



Brent Grilliot

Brent Grilliot, the wrestling coach, teacher, and DECCA sponsor at McAlester High School, talked to us Jan. 3 about all three subjects plus “pull-start motors.”

Brent said he had been married for 23

years and is in his 14th year of teaching.

He commended the club for its Rotary House and park and Flag program.

“Everything you do matters to somebody,” he said. Sometimes it is most important to “give encouragement, to show interest ...”

DECCA is a “work-study program” for students, he said. They have sales, sponsor concerts and athletic events. And they learn honesty and integrity, he added.

American Red Cross from page 1

Children can have a flashlight, money and games in their backpacks, in case of tornadoes or fires. And practices can be fun for kids, she said.

The Red Cross even teaches CPR for pets owners, when dogs or cats are overcome by smoke, fire or drowning. They use a dog mannequin for the class.

The local American Red Cross chapter now includes 13,000 square miles and 250,000 people, Ms. Cathey said.

This is his third year as wrestling coach, and he told about the annual wrestling tournament two weekends ago.

Brent also talked about the “feared, hated” recoil starter with a pull cord, that is on leaf blowers, trimmers, outboard motors, lawn edgers and four-wheelers. He said he wrestled the starters since he was six or seven years old. As a result, he has had blisters, was shocked, and “approached it with a hammer...and repeatedly slammed it to the ground.”

He once broke an oar on an outboard motor which would not start, he said.

Later he overcame his anger and learned to clean the spark plug. He said he learned to respond, instead of react. He said there is a “window” between the stimulus and the response.

So, he said, “Go slay your dragons, meet your goals,” and serve your community.

Drug Court from page 1

The coalition is “exciting, because there is nothing else like it, the church official said.

Its efforts hopefully “will change the direction of health care,” he added.

He called the group “a strong team,” but said there still is room for “other players” who want to get involved.

Leaders in the organization meet the second Friday morning of each month.



Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week there were 59 present. Visiting Rotarians were Tom Cobb, Assistant to the Governor, Tulsa; and Lavon Williams of Poteau. The previous week, there were 52 present. Kaylene Munson was a guest of Jim Bland. Robin Woodley and Chase Woodley were guests of Ronnie May.

Cherlene Manchus was a guest of Sandy Brock

On Jan. 3, there were 51 present. The guests were Susan Dudley and Assistant City Manager Bret Van Nieuwenhuise.

HANDSHAKERS—The women, the banks and the funeral homes continued to dominate the handshaking program, even though there’s no money involved recently.

Last week Ann Owens gave the Rotary commemorative coin to retired banker Wayne Milner. On the first Tuesday of the month, Don Brumley gave the token to Mike Lowber. And on Jan. 10, Lucy Smith had the coin and no one knows who she gave it to, (or if she kept it herself, now that she’s retiring.)